

Appl. No. 10/694,277

Amendment dated January 12, 2006

Reply to Final Office action of July 13, 2005

**AMENDMENT
AFTER FINAL REJECTION (RULE 116)****Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 30 (Previously presented). A link layer gateway computer operable to communicate a data packet from a source host computer selected from one of a plurality of host computers coupled to a first network medium to a destination host computer selected from one of a plurality of host computers coupled to a second network medium, wherein:

a first network interface circuit enables connection of said link layer gateway computer to said first network medium; and

a second network interface circuit enables connection of said link layer gateway computer to said second network medium;

the link layer gateway computer has an assigned protocol address and a computer protocol handler;

responsive to either of the first and second network interface circuits receiving a data packet, the computer protocol handler evaluates a destination protocol address in the received data packet;

the computer protocol handler is responsive to the received data packet if the destination protocol address corresponds to the assigned address of the link layer gateway computer;

wherein the link layer gateway computer is programmed to execute a link layer protocol handler coupled to communicate with each of the first and second network interface circuits;

wherein, responsive to either of the first and second network interface circuits receiving a data packet comprising an address pairing communication, the link layer protocol handler evaluates a destination protocol address in the received data packet;

Amendment is non-compliant